

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /081 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8127

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS, PINT, PINS, SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: ANTI-SEMITIC LITERATURE IN ARGENTINA

REF: A) STATE 283339, (B) BUENOS AIRES 5979

1. JEWISH LEADERS IN ARGENTINA HAVE BROUGHT THE REAPPEARANCE OF ANTI-SEMITIC PUBLICATIONS PUT OUT BY EDICIONES ODAL TO THE ATTENTION OF GOA AUTHORITIES. LAST WEEK (DEC. 1) GOA BANNED TWO NAZI BOOKS (NEITHER PUBLISHED BY ODAL) BUT HAS NOT YET TAKEN ANY STEPS AGAINST ODAL OR TITLES MENTIONED IN REFTEL A.

2. DESPITE THEIR CONCERN OVER REAPPEARANCE OF ANTI-SEMITIC TRACTS, JEWISH LEADERS TOLD EMBOFFS PROBLEM IS CONSIDERABLY LESS SERIOUS THAN IT WAS SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. ANTI-JEWISH LITERATURE IS AVAILABLE BUT NO LONGER PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED IN BOOKSTORES AND NEWSSTANDS. THE DECREE BANNING EIGHT TRACTS AND CLOSING DOWN MILICIA EDITIONS LAST SEPT. 13 (REFTEL B) WAS LATE AND WEAK, BUT APPARENTLY "WORD HAS FILTERED DOWN" TO CEASE ANTI-JEWISH MANIFESTATIONS, THE JEWISH SOURCES SAID. THERE HAVE BEEN NO ATTACKS ON JEWISH ESTABLISHMENTS FOR LAST TWO MONTHS.

3. COMMENT: JEWISH LEADERS TOLD EMBOFFS THEY ARE LESS CONCERNED ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM (CATHOLICS, THEY NOTED, ARE SUFFERING FAR MORE ATTACKS THAN JEWS) THAN WITH THE ARGENTINE POLITICAL SITUATION. "WE ARE NOT FRIGHTENED JEWS BUT WORRIED ARGENTINES," SAID ONE, WHO REMARKED THAT THE APPARENT INSTABILITY OF THE PRESENT GOVT COULD LEAD TO THE TAKING OF POWER BY MORE TOTALITARIAN AND NATION-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALISTIC GROUPS WHO COULD PRESENT A CONSIDERABLY GREATER THREAT TO

JEW IN ARGENTINA. THE SOURCES ALSO EXPRESSED THEIR CHAGRIN AT THE PRESENTATION OF THE B'NAI B'RITH ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE TOGETHER WITH NOTORIOUS ARGENTINE LEFTIST LAWYERS AT CONG. FRASER'S SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS IN SEPTEMBER ("A TERRIBLE MISTAKE*") AND COMMENTED THAT AMERICAN JEWISH GROUPS HAVE OVERDRAMATIZED THE DANGERS TO JEWS IN ARGENTINA.

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